to media reports, the Chinese side has also said that they would be mindful of environmental concerns while doing so. Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Urban poor

*73. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHART1A:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an independent study by an NGO 'Urban Health Resource Centre' has found that nearly 30 per cent or 90 million people living in urban areas are poor and according to UN Habitat, the number is likely to touch 200 million in 2020;

(b) whether the study that has analysed data collected by the National Family Health Survey-II points out that development indices such as infant mortality and maternal health are also low in urban areas;

(c) if so, the other main features of the report; and ~

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The NGO "Urban Health Resource Centre (UHRC), New Delhi" has reported that it has not conducted any independent study for estimating the number of urban poor. However, the estimates of urban poor by the Planning Commission based on the 61st Round Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) have put the figure between 68.2 million [by Mixed Recall Period (MRP) Method] to 80.8 million [by Uniform Recall Period (URP) Method]. Similarly, the UN-Habitat Report "The State of the World's Cities/2006-2007: The Millennium Development Goals and Urban SustainabiIity-30 years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda" does not provide projections of the urban poor population in 2020 but it makes projection of urban slum population in India to be 219.47 million in 2020.

(b) and (c) The UHRC has reported that it has analyzed the National Family Health Survey-II data which revealed that the under five mortality rate among the urban poor is 112.2 per 1000 live births which is nearly three times higher than the rates for the urban high income groups. The access to maternal health services is also poor in urban slums. Other health indicators also reveal wide disparities between the urban poor and the rest of the urban population.

(d) To tackle the poverty situation in urban areas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation scheme namely Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) w.e.f. 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban poor by assisting them to set up individual/group micro-enterprises as well as utilising their labour for the construction of socially useful public assets under the wage employment component. Similarly, for providing basic amenities such as affordable shelter, water and sanitation to the urban poor living in the urban areas, the Basic

Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) have been launched w.e.f. 3.12.2005. Under the Mission, focus on the health and sanitation facilities for the urban poor is given through the convergence of the sectoral schemes at the Urban Local Body (ULB) level.

Survey and report on educational status of Muslims

†*74. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had requested for conducting a separate survey and preparation of a report by NSSO on educational status of Muslims;

(b) if so, when such request was made by that Ministry;

(c) whether follow-up action has also been taken after accepting the request; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No specific request for a separate survey and preparation of report on educational status of Muslims has been received from the Ministry of Minority Affairs. However, this Ministry, while finalizing the subject for the forthcoming 65th round to be conducted during July 2008-June 2009, had written to all Ministries in February, 2007 on their data requirement. In response to this, the Ministry of Minority Affairs had made a request on 1st March, 2007 to collect the State-wise data for the five notified minority communities; *i.e.* Muslims, Christian, Sikh. Buddhist and Parsis, on the following items.

1. Difference in level of consumption among socio-economic groups.
2. Education and vocational training: its level, nature and cost.
3. Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
4. Unorganised service sector: characteristics of enterprises.
5. Condition of urban slums.
6. Report on village facilities.
7. Housing condition: household amenities and other characteristics.
8. Household indebtedness/borrowings and repayments.
9. Employment and Unemployment Situation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.